to an adequate number of meritorious students (and those from historically disadvantaged and vulnerable groups) who do not have the means to pay the fees. In this connection, the Group recommends in particular that the present disability imposed by the UGC Act and the Regulations of the AICTE and other apex bodies on the eligibility of the corporate sector (for profit entities) to establish educational institutions must be removed".

(c) and (d) The above report is under examination.

Balanced development in the age of globalisation

†3330. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a renowned economist Shri Ashok Mitra while expressing his views on the challenges appearing before India for balanced development in this age of globalisation has stated that 85 per cent people are being deprived of ongoing development in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has examined the above mentioned statement;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the assessment made by Government with regard to the participation of common men in development of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) As per the newsitem appearing in the daily 'The Hindu' dated 2nd April, 2008, Shri Ashok Mitra, while giving a lecture on "Challenges of inclusive growth in India in the age of globalisation" said that "the uneven growth taking place in the country has benefited only 10 to 15 per cent of the total population and an overwhelming majority (85 per cent) has been left out of the growth process."

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission is fully aware of the challenges in this regard and has articulated the policy of faster growth and inclusive development in the Eleventh Plan. The basis of the above mentioned statement made by Shri Mitra that overwhelming majority (85 per cent) has been left out of the growth process has not been spelt out.

(d) Empowerment of disadvantage and hitherto marginalized groups of the population is an essential component of inclusive development articulated in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. It encompasses equality of opportunity as well as economic and social mobility for all sections of the society, with affirmative action for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities and women. The country's democratic polity with three tiers of the Panchayati Raj Institutions ensures the involvement of common men in the development process of the country. Most of the poverty alleviation programmes and programmes related to the human development indicators are implemented with the involvement of common men.

Criteria for poverty index

3331. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken to redefine the criteria for determining poverty index;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Planning Commission uses a poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure as the criterion to determine poverty. The per capita consumption norm has been fixed at Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The State-specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines, using State-specific price indices and inter-State price differentials. This criteria now being used by the Planning Commission is based on the recommendations of an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. D.T. Lakdawala with eminent persons in the area of poverty estimation as members.

Monitoring of work of exploration

3332. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CAG has alleged about the "sloppy monitoring of the work relating to exploration during the Tenth Plan". resulting in huge financial losses;

(b) whether such shortcomings were noticed in the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Plan;

(c) if so, whether these were brought to the notice of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry, as also to the ONGC;

(d) whether corrective measures were taken by ONGC; and

(e) the steps suggested to ONGC to avoid such recurrences during Eleventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes Sir, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOP&NG) has informed Planning Commission, that the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) has recently forwarded their observations to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOP&NG) on an audit titled "Deep water Exploration" relating to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). They have observed that some unfruitful expenditure has been incurred by ONGC.

(b) and (c) No Sir, Mid term appraisal reviews performance against physical targets and financial outlays.

(d) and (e) As the observations have been furnished recently by C&AG to MOP&NG, the issues on such recurrences on operational matters will be discussed with MOP&NG and ONGC to suggest the corrective measures. However, the Eleventh plan document has suggested adoption of latest technology to carry out exploration and production activities in timely manner without incurring cost overruns.